

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PONTA 00085 161041Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL OPORTO
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PONTA DELGADA 085

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: AZOREAN DEVELOPMENTS: SOCIALIST LEADER'S HOUSE BURNED

REF: PONTA DELGADA 016 (DTG: 191750Z JAN 77)

1. DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 14, THE UNOCCUPIED HOUSE BELONGING TO THE FATHER OF JAIME GAMA, A NATIONAL SOCIALIST LEADER AND DEPUTY FROM PONTA DELGADA, WAS GUTTED BY FIRE. GAMA ACTUALLY RESIDES IN LISBON. THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT STATED THE FIRE WAS SET DELIBERATELY. MANY BELIEVE IT WAS THE WORK OF SEPARATISTS.

2. SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES: ON MARCH 12, SEPARATIST LEADER JOSE ALMEIDA AND A GROUP OF FOLLOWERS CHARTERED A FLIGHT TO THE ISLAND OF FAIAL WHERE IN A SMALL TOWN HE GAVE A SPEECH ON MALTA. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS TALK IN TWO TOWNS ON THE NEARBY ISLAND OF PICO. THE THEME OF THE SPEECHES, THE PARALLELS BETWEEN INDEPENDENT MALTA AND THE AZORES, WAS THE SAME AS HIS RECENT SPEECH IN PONTA DELGADA (REFTEL). THERE WAS ONE
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PAGE 02 PONTA 00085 161041Z

REPORT OF A NON-VIOLENT CONFRONTATION ON PICO BETWEEN ALMEIDA'S FOLLOWERS AND THEIR OPPONENTS. ALMEIDA DID NOT SPEAK IN HORTA, THE MAJOR TOWN ON FAIAL. IN THE MEANTIME, A COMPANY HAS BEEN FORMED TO PUBLISH THE SEPARATIST NEWSPAPER MILHAFRE UNDER ALMEIDA'S GUIDANCE AND REGULAR EDITIONS OF THE NEWSPAPER HAVE APPEARED. ALMEIDA'S APPEARANCE IN COURT IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILHAFRE WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY WAS

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

3. COMMENT: AS CUSTOMARY, NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE FIRE AT GAMA'S HOUSE AND NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHO IS TO BLAME - SEPARATISTS OF THE RIGHT, COMMUNISTS, OR THE FAR LEFT. THE DAMAGE WAS MUCH GREATER THAN IN ANY PREVIOUS INCIDENT IN THE AZORES. THIS COUPLED WITH GAMA'S NATIONAL PROMINENCE WILL INSURE THE FIRE RECEIVES WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE. THE FIRE AND ALMEIDA'S RECENT SPEECHES PROBABLY WILL GENERATE NEW CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST THE AZOREAN SEPARATISTS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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